

RAY PRESENTS



IN opening my mail this morning I found a printed copy of the address delivered by George J. Schaeffer, President of Radio - Keith - Orpheum Corporation, which he delivered at the International Convention on the occasion of a General Staff Luncheon attended by Members of the Board of Directors, executives, distinguished guests, associated producers, the press, and the entire Sales Organization and home office staffs of RKO Radio Pictures, RKO Theatres and RKO Pathe News.

The address is entitled "The Show Must Go On". We as Show Folks are very familiar with that slogan, it has constituted, since shows were born, the morale of showdom. Mr. Schaeffer commenced his address as follows; "The thought may occur to some of our guests this afternoon this is a strange time indeed to sound a note of achievement, sound a note of progress, sound a note of confidence, in a world where the values that decent men have built up, under freedom and civilization, may be sliding off a precipice. And yet that is the note I want to strike today.

"Perhaps the truest side of the great events we are witnessing — the side that will emerge after the smoke has cleared — is that the principles and practices that have marked our own way of life have been tried by fire and sword and not found wanting. Perhaps our awakening to the fact that there are rights which men must be prepared to defend, as well as believe in, will bring humanity to a finer and higher stage of progress. Anyway that must be the determination of the human spirit, and I know of nothing more inspiring in this direction than the time-old slogan of our own business — THE SHOW MUST GO ON."

MR. SCHAEFFER continued, "And let no one forget that this isn't to fiddle while Rome burns. The surcease, the recreation, the inspiration that entertainment brings, are as vital in this emergency as bread and meat and other necessities of life. It is not merely the stomach but the spirit that must be fed in these days of trial. We must have an invincible morale as well as an invincible armament to be fully prepared."

I wish that I had the space to publish the entire address of Mr. Schaeffer's, who from this point talks about what the war has done to America's foreign picture markets, not through the fault of studios to produce the vitally necessary entertainment, nor through a lack of motion picture interest on the part of the public in foreign countries which American motion pictures have served, but through the tragedies and circumstances of war which have cut off the entertainment of the people, just as the War Hounds have cut off the lives and food, have blasted the shelters and homes of millions. While tragedy mounts upon tragedy and the line of the refugees extends for miles and miles with new millions continually added, while this nightmare in our dream of life, is projected upon the Screen of the World, Mr. Schaeffer emphasizes THE SHOW MUST GO ON and RKO studios are "rolling almost up to the front-line trenches in France and Belgium entertainment products of our studios, recorded in cans of celluloid" and Mr. Schaeffer emphasizes that these "cans of film" are as food and ammunition and other vital necessities.

MR. SCHAEFFER spoke of the economies which his company effected, that no employee who received \$4,500 a year or under, received a cut in his salary, that the cuts were from above not below; and in an amusing sentence he said, "not all bankers have glass eyes". Indicating that the bankers and business men in association with the RKO-Radio represented "an industrial family", the business side of their enterprise realized that the movies are an art as well as an industry.

In concluding a most forceful and unusual address, one timed to the movement of thought today, thoughts which convert themselves rather into action than speech, Mr. Schaeffer said, "It is right I believe, that the man immediately on the firing line of our sales activities should raise the curtain on what our studios will have to offer in the coming season. I refer to that officer of our company who has the responsibility of covering, intensively and extensively, the whole front of RKO sales in our greatest market, the home market. He is my friend and Vice-President and General Manager of Sales of the RKO company, I now introduce — Mr. Depinet."

THE U.S. has legislated an Amusement Tax covering all seats which have an admission price of twenty-one cents and over. The tax starts off at ten percent. Many theatres which have never come within the scope of such federal taxation will now be taxed. The new tax becomes effective July 1st. The ten percent tax means two and one-half cents in addition to the 21 cents admission. There have been some rumours that theatres in Canada may expect a tax.

20th Century-Fox reports that it will discontinue producing activities in England until the European War is over. A statement from Robert T. Kane, British production head of 20th Century-Fox, in reference to production described the outlook as "almost impossible".

That a crisis in respect to dual programmes approaches is evident. Leading producers and exhibitors have joined with the press and public opinion against the continuance of double features. Which only goes to prove that if one lives long enough all things happen. It is not necessary for me to restate The Digest's opinion concerning double features, we were always "agin them". The necessary economies of war, with limited finance for entertainment, with difficulties of production will force the public which desires to be entertained to pull in its belt just as producers, distributors and exhibitors are doing.

Once forced to economize on motion picture fare, the public will again become educated to single features and shorts, and exhibitors will be forced to educate themselves once again in the business of showmanship. Programs with one feature will necessitate program presentation. Incidentally the "Short" may be able to stand on its own feet, it has been a kind of football in our Industry, an unwanted child which distributors forced upon exhibitors, but without the double feature, it will be a "wanted child".



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KERSHAW AND YUILLE LEAD CALGARY CAMPAIGN

Toronto, Ont. — Wire received from Calgary, Alta., following the "Win the War" Campaign meeting held there on Tuesday of this week:

"Under the co-chairmanship of J. H. Yuille of the Monarch Theatre, Medicine Hat and Frank Kershaw, District Manager of Famous Players Canadian Corporation, an Executive Committee composed of Pete Egan of the Palace Theatre, Calgary; Walter Wilson, Capitol Theatre, Edmonton; A. W. Shackleford, Capitol Theatre, Lethbridge; W. H. B. Sharpe of Sharpe's Theatrical Enterprises, Calgary, and V. M. Skorey, 20th Century-Fox, Calgary, reflected the general enthusiasm radiated by representative gathering of the Alberta Exhibitors Association and Independent Theatre Operators held in the Palliser Hotel, Calgary, today.

"With Fred Anderson representing Premier William Aberhart and Andrew Davidson, Mayor of the city, volunteering one hundred percent provincial and civic support, it was the general consensus of opinion that the motion picture industry in Alberta would go over the top in its contribution to the Motion Picture Industry's 'Win the War' Campaign.

(Signed) LEO M. DEVANEY,
H. M. MASTERS, N. A. TAYLOR."

EASTERN DIVIDEND

Toronto, Ont. — Eastern Theatres Limited has announced a dividend of three and one-half percent on the outstanding preferred shares, payable on the 31st day of July to preferred shareholders of record on June 29th, 1940.

STAFF AIDS WAR SAVINGS

Regina, Sask. — Rex Theatre here is helping Canada's war effort by staging a raffle each week for a War Savings Certificate. Each member of the staff chips in one dollar and the theatre, too, adds to the pot, then a draw is held. Lucky staff member gets the total in the form of a certificate.

Crown's Appeal Against Foto-Nite Dismissed

DECISION SHOWS FOTO-NITE NOT ILLEGAL

Toronto, Ont. — A decision was handed down on Thursday, June 20th, dismissing the Crown's appeal in the case against Messrs. Lionel Hansher, Albert Burgess, Vito Simone and Bowen, operators of Foto-Nite.

At the first hearing in the matter of the operation of Foto-Nite, Judge Ian Macdonell, following the preliminary hearing in the case in the Court of General Sessions of the Peace, ruled the indictment be quashed. The action taken against Foto-Nite, was on the grounds that it was operated in violation of the Lottery Section of the Criminal Code.

On April 6th, Judge James Parker handed down a decision in a second hearing, ruling that the indictment be quashed on the grounds that it disclosed no offence.

The Attorney General's department appealed the quashing of the indictment and the hearing was heard on Friday, June 14th, by Their Lordships, Middleton, Masten and Robertson, and the appeal was dismissed.

C. R. Magone, K.C., appeared for the Crown, and Arthur S. Slaght, K.C., and Louis Davidson, appeared for the accused.

ELECTED PRESIDENT

Winnipeg, Man. — Dr. Sidney E. Smith, of Winnipeg, president of the University of Manitoba, was elected president of the National Film Society at its annual meeting held last week.

LA RETA CLOSED

Toronto, Ont. — The La Reta Theatre, situated on Pape Avenue and owned by I. Stern, has been closed for the summer. The house was being operated by B & F Theatres under a lease which has just expired. The owner states that the theatre is being completely modernized, and will be re-opened in September.

MOOSE JAW COUNCIL DELETES CLOSING LAW

Moose Jaw, Sask. — Moose Jaw city council, consolidating and revising the city's licensing bylaws, deleted after two readings the section which would have forced theatres, dance halls, etc., to remain closed from 12 midnight Saturdays to 7 a.m. the following Monday, to close weekdays at 2 a.m. and remain closed to 9 a.m. the same day, and which would bar children under 14 from entering theatres after 8 p.m. unless accompanied by parents or guardian.

Decision to delete the section was made because of widespread opposition in the city to the provision and also because it was agreed that the fixing of closing hours on Sunday was a matter for the provincial authorities and not the city.

ESQUIRE FILMS HAS FIVE YEAR FRANCHISE

Toronto, Ont. — The completion of a five year franchise for films produced by Associated Talking Pictures and Ealing Studios by Archie Laurie, president and general manager of Esquire Films, gives that company a line-up of 15 productions yearly, on the market for Canadian exhibitors.

With 12 films already completed, at a time when the British films are particularly good box-office because of the accentuated patriotic feeling of these times, Esquire Films will release the following pictures through Empire-Universal Films:

"Convoy" — starring Clive Brook, John Clements and Judy Campbell. Filmed on thrilling trips with Convoys, drama enacted against the real background. "Let George Do It" — Starring George Formby, who for two years in succession has been England's leading box-office star. "Young Man's Fancy" — with Griffith Jones, Anna Lee and Seymour Hicks. A comedy drama and burlesque of the saucy '70's. Directed by Robert Stevenson, now in Hollywood with Selznick International.

"The Proud Valley" — starring Paul Robeson and Janet Johnson, and a new Balcon discovery, Ray Thomas. A story of life in the Welsh coal-fields, plus the voice of Paul Robeson. Directed by Pen Tennyson. "Cheer Boys Cheer" — starring Edmund Gwenn and Nova Pilbeam. Comedy of rivalry in the brewery trade. "Return to Yesterday" — starring Clive Brook, Anna Lee and Dame May Whitty. "Smooth direction dominating stellar portrayal, charming exteriors, popular offering with assured star pull." Herald Daily.

"Saloon Bar" — starring Gordon Harker and Elizabeth Allen. "It's In The Air" — starring George Formby. "Sailors Three" — starring Tommy Trinder, Claude Hulbert and Michael Wilding. Comedy with War background. "John and Marion" — tentative title — now in production under direction of Cavalcanti, in association with Michael Balcon. "I See Ice" — starring George Formby.

The above films produced by Michael Balcon, the man who was supervisor of production for Gaumont-British, and responsible for such hits as "The 39 Steps", "Yank at Oxford", "Silent Barriers", and "Secret Agent".

20th CENTURY-FOX

"LILLIAN RUSSELL"

STARRING Alice Faye, Don Ameche and Henry Fonda, with Edward Arnold, Warren William, Leo Carrillo, Nigel Bruce, Helen Westley, Dorothy Peterson, Claude Allister, Weber and Fields and Eddie Foy, Jr. Directed by Irving Cummings. Running time—126 minutes.

"One of the 19th Century's most famous glamour-girls lives once more in the person of Alice Faye, 20th Century-Fox's most famous glamour-girl . . . master-showman Darryl F. Zanuck has surrounded the lovely Miss Faye with two co-starring leading men, plus a cast strong enough to carry two features and a couple of two-reelers . . . classy entertainment."

WARNER BROTHERS

"TORRID ZONE"

STARRING James Cagney, Ann Sheridan and Pat O'Brien, with Andy Devine, Helen Vinson, George Tobias, Jerome Cowan and Frank Puglia. Directed by William Keighley. Running time—87 minutes.

"A riotous comedy-drama combining the locale of 'Only Angels Have Wings' and the principal theme of 'The Front Page', with the same type of dialogue employed in the last-mentioned feature . . . O'Brien, Cagney and Sheridan make a swell trio of stars, with the wise-cracks coming in machine-gun like rapidity."

"AN ANGEL FROM TEXAS"

STARRING Wayne Morris, Ronald Reagan, Eddie Albert, Jane Wyman and Rosemary Lane, with Ruth Terry, John Litel, Hobart Cavanaugh, and Tom Kennedy. Directed by Ray Enright. Running time—69 minutes.

"Featuring four of the principals of the 'Brother Rat' pictures, this remake of the George S. Kaufman play, 'Butter and Egg Man', is a riotous concoction that will prove first class entertainment for summer audiences . . . laughs are plenteous, while action is exceedingly fast."

"FLIGHT ANGELS"

STARRING Virginia Bruce, Dennis Morgan, Wayne Morris, Jane Wyman and Ralph Bellamy. Directed by Lewis Seiler. Running time—74 minutes.

"Not a top group picture by any means, but properly handled, and with careful exploitation, might succeed in bringing in a lot more shekels than many of the so-called 'A' productions . . . a zippy script, well directed and acted."

PROJECTIONIST WANTED
Grade A & B for Ontario. Give full particulars.
BOX 59 — THE DIGEST

EMPIRE - UNIVERSAL

"FOR FREEDOM"

STARRING Will Fyffe, Anthony Hulme, Guy Middleton, Albert Lieve, E. V. H. Emmett, the officers and men of H.M.S. Exeter, Ajax and Achilles, and the prisoners aboard the Graf Spee and the Altmarm. Running time—82 minutes.

"Second of the propaganda pictures to come from the British studios since the beginning of the War, it shows vast improvement over the first, 'The Lion Has Wings' . . . the technique is somewhat similar to 'The Lion', but care has been taken to see that more entertainment and less newsreel is presented."

PARAMOUNT

"TYPHOON"

STARRING Dorothy Lamour and Robert Preston, with Lynne Overmann and J. Carroll Naish. Directed by Anthony Veiller. Running time—70 minutes.

"Magnificent Technicolor photography, some brilliant technical work in producing a typhoon, forest fire and tidal wave in miniature, and Dorothy Lamour in a wardrobe of brightly patterned sarongs are the main selling features of this production."

COLUMBIA

"DOCTOR TAKES A WIFE"

STARRING Ray Milland and Loretta Young, with Gail Patrick, Reginald Gardiner, Edmund Gwenn and Frank Sully. Directed by Alexander Hall. Running time—83 minutes.

"The studio that gave you 'The Awful Truth', 'Mr. Deeds' and 'Too Many Husbands', now offers another banner entertainment picture . . . good performances, top-notch direction and a clever screenplay, all add up to heavy grosses . . . built for laughs."

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"PUBLIC OPINION"

NEW GIVEAWAY IDEA

Regina, Sask. — Western Furs Ltd., Regina, is now airing a weekly show over CJRM, Regina, from the Capitol Theatre stage. Show, titled "Public Opinion", gives away cash awards totalling over \$50 each week.

Each week the theatre gives patrons cards bearing a series of questions dealing with politics, personal interests, etc., the cards to be filled out and turned in at the box office or the radio station. Public opinion determines the correct answer to each question.

Contestants are selected from the theatre audience during the broadcast and asked the question for which the public opinion vote has been received. A correct answer wins one dollar and a wrong answer calls for a seat number draw. Patron in the lucky seat gets one dollar, or two dollars if admitted by use of thrift-tickets.

Person sending in the question card with the greatest number of questions correctly answered according to public opinion gets \$20 and if that person is in the theatre during the broadcast he gets an extra \$10. When the winner is not in the theatre the extra \$10 is carried over and added to the \$30 pot the next week.

CELEBRATES 25 YEARS

The Nanaimo Free Press has published a special edition in which is reviewed the past 25 years of development of the city. Featured in this edition was the Famous Players theatre, The Capitol, built twenty-five years ago, opened by the late Peter Weigle. J. "Mel" Gow is the manager of this theatre which celebrates its twenty-fifth anniversary with the installation of new sound equipment and a ventilating system.

COOKING SCHOOL DRAWS

Calgary, Alta. — Calgary Albertan-Capitol Theatre cooking school presented every Wednesday in conjunction with the feature picture and with Dorothy Griffiths Johnston at the helm is drawing good crowds. Ad tie-ups with local stores give the attraction plenty of publicity in the Albertan.

TAIT DATES

Lethbridge, Alta. — Playing Alberta dates, "The Musical Tait's", a mother and her six children, were on the Capitol stage here for one evening performance recently. Film fare was "Rebecca". Unit has been appearing on the stages and on the air in British Columbia and boasts the youngest cellist in Canada, Logan Tait, 5.

NEON SIGN FOR SALE

Vertical Neon Sign, practically new. 16 feet long by 6½ feet wide. Write giving offer.

BOX 60 — THE DIGEST

Feature Release Dates For July

COLUMBIA

"Military Academy" July 18
 "Blondie Has Servant
 Trouble" July 25
 "It Happened In Paris" July 31

METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER

"Susan and God" July 8
 "The Captain Is A Lady" July 15
 "New Moon" July 22
 "Andy Hardy Meets
 Debantante" July 29

"PARAMOUNT"

"The Way of All Flesh" July 8
 "Stagecoach War" July 15
 "Untamed" July 26

RKO RADIO

"Millionaires in Prison" July 12
 O'Brien film (Untitled) July 19
 "Dr. Christian Meets
 The Women" July 26

MANAGER CAPITOL THEATRE

North Bay, Ont. — Members of the staff of the Capitol Theatre here, honored Max Phillips, former treasurer, before his departure for Sudbury, where he takes the position of assistant manager of the Capitol Theatre. A Gladstone bag was presented by Jack Nelson, manager, on behalf of the staff.

Mr. Phillips takes the place of Louis Gauthier, who has been transferred to Cartier Theatre, Hull, Que.

KIELY TO MONTREAL

Saint John, N.B. — J. P. Kiely, always a most welcome visitor at Saint John, was here recently on his way from St. John's, Newfoundland, and left for Montreal.

ASN STUDIO VISITOR

Montreal, Que. — Mr. Stuart Legg of National Film Board, was a visitor at Associated Screen News head office in Montreal.

20th CENTURY-FOX

"Sailor's Lady" July 5
 "Manhattan Heartbeat" July 12
 "Maryland" July 19

WARNER BROTHERS

"The Man Who Talked Too
 Much" July 6
 "My Love Came Back" July 13
 "Ladies Must Live" July 20
 "They Drive By Night" July 27

UNITED ARTISTS

*"Turnabout" July
 "South of Pogo Pogo" July 12

*Originally scheduled for June release.

MANAGERIAL CHANGES

Toronto, Ont. — Changes in the management of Premier Theatres include A. C. Simpson, now at the Hollywood, Toronto, with Doug Watt managing the Waterloo Theatre. Walter F. Helm has been switched from Waterloo to the management of the Strand Theatre, Haileybury, and the Classic in Cobalt. The theatres are operated on alternate evenings.

COLE PORTER IN WINNIPEG

Winnipeg, Man. — Cole Porter, Hollywood song writer visited here recently. On a leisurely trip through Canada, before returning to Hollywood, he was quoted as saying, "A signed contract is a stimulus to write a song."

Trans-Canada Showings

TORONTO

AVENUE

"Of Mice and Men" (United Artists), with Burgess Meredith, Lon Chaney, Jr., and Betty Field.

IMPERIAL

"Til We Meet Again" (Warner-First National), with Merle Oberon and George Brent, also "Flight Angels" (First National), with Virginia Bruce and Dennis Morgan.

LOEW'S

"Susan and God" (Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer), with Joan Crawford and Fredric March also "Florian" (Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer), with Robert Young and Helen Gilbert.

SHEA'S

"Safari" (Paramount), with Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., and Madeleine Carroll, also "Sandy is a Lady" (Universal), with Baby Sandy, Tom Brown and Nan Grey.

UPTOWN

"Brother Orchid" (Warner Bros.), with Edward G. Robinson and Ann Sothorn.

ST. JOHN

CAPITOL

"Waterloo Bridge" (Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer), with Vivien Leigh and Robert Taylor.

MAYFAIR

"Over the Moon" (United Artists-Korda), with Merle Oberon.

STRAND

"Hitler, Beast of Berlin" (Grand National), with Roland Drew and Steffi Duna.

MONTREAL

CAPITOL

"Untamed" (Paramount), with Ray Milland, Akim Tamiroff and Patricia Morrison, also "The Biscuit Eater" (Paramount), with Billy Lee.

LOEW'S

"Susan and God" (Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer), with Joan Crawford and Fredric March.

ORPHEUM

"One Million B.C." (United Artists), with Victor Mature, Carole Landis and Lon Chaney, Jr., also "Saps At Sea" (United Artists), with Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy.

PALACE

"Brother Orchid" (Warner Bros.), with Edward G. Robinson and Ann Sothorn.

PRINCESS

"Saturday's Children" (Warner Bros.), with John Garfield and Ann Shirley.

WINNIPEG

CAPITOL

"For Freedom" (Empire-Universal), with Will Fyffe.

GAIETY

"My Son, My Son" (United Artists), with Madeleine Carroll, Brian Aherne and Louis Hayward, also "Granny Get Your Gun" (Warner Bros.), with May Robson.

GARRICK

"Sixty Glorious Years" (RKO Radio), with Anna Neagle, Anton Walbrook and C. Aubrey Smith.

LYCEUM

"Allegheny Uprising" (RKO Radio), with Claire Trevor and John Wayne, also "Millionaire Playboy" (RKO Radio), with Joe Penner.

METROPOLITAN

"The Primrose Path" (RKO Radio), with Ginger Rogers and Joel McCrea.

CALGARY

CAPITOL

"For Freedom" (Empire - Universal), with Will Fyffe.

PALACE

"The House Across the Bay" (United Artists), with George Raft and Joan Bennett.

STRAND

"The Blue Bird" (20th Century-Fox), with Shirley Temple, Spring Byington, and Nigel Bruce, also "The Man Who Wouldn't Talk" (20th Century-Fox), with Lloyd Nolan and Jean Rogers.

VANCOUVER

CAPITOL

"Lillian Russell" (20th Century-Fox), with Alice Faye, Don Ameche and Henry Fonda.

DOMINION

"Irene" (RKO Radio), with Anna Neagle and Ray Milland, also "The Light of the Western Stars" (Paramount).

ORPHEUM

"It All Came True" (Warner Bros.), with Ann Sheridan, Jeffrey Lynn and Humphrey Bogart, also "Three Cheers for the Irish" (Warner Bros.), with Priscilla Lane and Dennis Morgan.

PLAZA

"Beyond Tomorrow" (RKO Radio), with Charles Winniger, Jean Parker and Richard Carlson.

STRAND

"One Million B.C." (United Artists), with Victor Mature, Carole Landis and Lon Chaney, Jr.

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